

## Health

### Safety, value being tested

## New drug combo improves rare uterine cancer survival

NEW YORK, April 16: Adding the monoclonal antibody drug trastuzumab — already used to treat certain breast cancers — to the chemotherapy regimen of women with a rare form of uterine cancer lengthens the amount of time their tumors are kept from growing, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers conducting a small phase II trial of the regimen, testing its safety and value.

The results of the trial, published online ahead of print on March 27 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, show that the drug extended the length of time to tumor progression by four to eight months in the seven-year trial. The researchers say this may lead to new national guidelines for treating this cancer subtype, known as uterine serous carcinoma.

Uterine serous carcinoma makes up less than 10 percent of all cancers of the endometrium, or lining of the womb, diagnosed in the United States each year, but it accounts for more than a third of the 10,000 endometrial cancer deaths annually. The aggressive carcinomas often don't cause symptoms until they've begun to spread throughout the body. As a result, the average time that standard chemotherapy and surgical treatments can keep the tumor from growing or spreading — known as progression-free survival — is only about eight months.

#### Spread

"The fact that these tumors grow rapidly, but also have a propensity to spread to lymph nodes and other organs very early, is a double whammy for women," says Amanda Fader, MD, associate professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and first author of the new study.

Fader and her colleagues knew that about 30 percent of all uterine serous carcinomas test positive for HER2/neu, a receptor protein that is also overexpressed in about 10 percent of all breast cancers. Trastuzumab binds to and blocks

HER2/neu, keeping it from driving tumor growth, and has been shown to be effective in so-called HER2 positive breast cancers.

#### Assigned

From August 2011 through March 2017, Fader, Alessandro Santin, MD, professor of gynecology and obstetrics at Yale University, and collaborators at 11 other cancer treatment centers in the US randomly assigned 61 women with uterine serous carcinoma, being seen at the participating institutions, to receive either the standard chemotherapeutic regimen — a combination of the drugs carboplatin and paclitaxel — or those drugs plus trastuzumab. Some 41 of the patients had stage 3 or 4 uterine serous carcinoma — known as advanced disease — and 17 had recurrent uterine serous carcinoma. All tested positive for the HER2/neu receptor.

Among all patients, the 28 controls receiving only the standard carboplatin and paclitaxel combination had an average progression-free survival time of eight months, and the 30 who received trastuzumab in addition had an average progression-free survival time of 12.6 months. However, the difference was even more profound in the 41 patients with advanced disease, whose progression-free survival time went from an average of 9.3 months to 17.9 months with the addition of trastuzumab.

"Even an improvement of a few months may be quite meaningful for women with these cancers," says Fader, who is also affiliated with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.

Among patients with recurrent disease, progression-free survival time increased from an average of six months to 9.2 months. The difference, Fader says, may be that these patients have been heavily treated in the past, are more likely to have overall poorer health and are more likely to have mutated or heterogeneous tumors, or tumors with different levels of HER2 expression.



Photos from the event.

### Hawally Fire Dept visits Kuwait National English School

The youngest children at Kuwait National English School (KNES) were recently visited by the Hawally Fire Department.

These heroes took time out of their day to speak to the children about Fire Safety. The firemen asked about protective fire gear, what number to call in an emergency and showed them how fires are put out.

Kuwait National English School cannot thank these community helpers

enough as they provided a great learning opportunity for the children as well as helping them to understand the dangers of fire. The young children of KNES were thrilled about the visit and the firemen were wonderful with their interactions with all the children.

Kuwait National English School would like to thank the Hawally Fire Department for taking the time to help in the education of our children as well as the wonderful work they do every day!

click

### General

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According to these age groups:  
Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15 years: Morning: 100 visitors max; Evening: 45; 16 and above: Morning: 140 visitors max, Evening: 105.

Tour language: Arabic- English-French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French: Arabic (English upon prior request)

Rules and Regulations:

■ Please arrive in time for your visit.

■ All visitors are kindly required to abide by the mosque's dress code. Male visitors should wear long pants. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Female visitors: should wear head cover and long loose clothing (available at the mosque).

■ Foods and drinks are not allowed inside the prayer halls.

■ For school visits, teachers are responsible for their students and are required to cooperate with the staff members of the Grand Mosque.

■ Photography is allowed inside the Grand Mosque (please note that disrespectful poses are strictly prohibited).

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tions will be an essential part of the history of Amricani. Share with us!

**KIFF anti-drugs campaign:** As part of the Fraternity fest, Kuwait India Fraternity Forum (KIFF) is conducting Anti-Drugs Campaign among Indians living in Kuwait. According to the available statistics of Indian Embassy, 60% of the convicted Indians in Kuwaiti Jails are arrested on drug-related cases. The recent cases of death and captives of Indian drug abusers is a threatening news. To defend and to campaign against such social crisis by protecting individuals as well as the society has become obligatory. In this current situation, Kuwait India Fraternity Forum is conducting campaign by distributing handouts, conducting counseling, seminars etc. to educate the Indians living in Kuwait informed President

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